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New Buffalo Times

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Berrien County Health Department recognizes World AIDS Day, promotes HIV services

In recognition of World AIDS Day, the Berrien County Health Department is encouraging community members to check out its accessible and confidential HIV prevention, testing and education services.

Observed annually on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day unites people across the globe in support of individuals living with HIV and raises awareness about ongoing prevention and treatment efforts within communities. World AIDS Day kicks off HIV/AIDS Awareness Month, which is recognized nationally and brings attention to the impact HIV/AIDS has in communities locally and worldwide and raises awareness of prevention and treatment strategies.

BCHD provides a range of HIV services designed to support community members through confidential and compassionate care. State-certified nurses and community health workers offer testing in a safe, nonjudgmental setting. During visits, a BCHD team member will discuss risk factors, provide prevention education and work with individuals to create plans for reducing the risk of infection.

"Our goal is to normalize testing and connect people to the care they need," said Emma Yazel, STD/HIV community health worker at BCHD. "By offering accessible services in a welcoming environment, we're helping residents protect their health and the health of the community."

Rapid HIV tests are available at BCHD, with results in about 20 minutes. A BCHD team member will review confidential results on the same day and connect anyone who tests positive for HIV to appropriate medical care and support services.

Referrals are also available for HIV-negative individuals seeking access to pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, a once-daily pill or periodic injection that helps prevent HIV transmission.

Appointments for HIV services are available 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday at BCHD's Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave., and 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday at its Niles office, 1205 N. Front St. Community members may schedule an appointment online or by calling 269.926.7121.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyone ages 13-64 get tested at least once as part of routine health care. Individuals with the following risk factors are encouraged to get tested at least once a year:

- Are a male who has had sex with a male.
- Have had anal or vaginal sex with someone who has HIV.
- Have had more than one sex partner since your last HIV test.
- Have shared needles, syringes or other drug injection equipment.
- Have exchanged sex for drugs or money.
- Have been diagnosed with or treated for another sexually transmitted infection, hepatitis or tuberculosis.
- Have had sex with someone who has done anything listed above or you don't know their sexual history.

To learn more about BCHD's HIV services, visit www.berriencounty.org/637/HIV-Services. — **STAFF REPORTS**

AREA LAWMAKER REVEALS BOMB THREAT

A state lawmaker from Michiana Shores is among the latest members of the Indiana Legislature to report being victim of "swatting."

Republican State Senator Mike Bohacek said he received threats of a bomb placed at his home on Friday, Nov. 28.

He said a quick response was given to the threat by multiple law enforcement agencies.

"This recent pattern of threatening behavior and intimidation attempts are not only concerning, but also illegal. I hope to see justice for this type of behavior," he said.

At least 10 Indiana Republican lawmakers have reported being victims of swatting, which are prank calls designed to trigger a large response from law enforcement.

Authorities suspect the calls are linked to President Trump putting pressure on Indiana Republicans to redraw the state's congressional maps to make it easier for Republicans to win House seats now held by Democrats.

Bohacek, who has come out against redistricting, said he will not provide any additional information about the bomb threat since the investigation is ongoing. — STAN MADDUX

For those who knowingly falsely accuse should be punished in the same manner as those who commit crime against humanity.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
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MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

More public input voiced on short-term rental debate

BY STAN MADDUX

Whether to tighten restrictions on short-term rentals in Chikaming Township received more public comment during a special meeting that was held Monday, Nov. 24, to strictly hear from citizens.

Over 100 people turned out for the meeting at the Chikaming Township Fire Station.

Some people felt the solution is not to impose a cap on the number of short-term rentals but, instead, tougher enforcement to reduce complaints from residents about things such as loud parties, lack of sufficient parking and garbage piled high.

One resident proposed short-term rental owners lose their operating permits on the third violation at their properties to get a handle on disruption in residential neighborhoods.

Jason Milovich, owner of Bluefish Vacation Rentals, said effective enforcement, not more restrictions, would be the best action to avoid punishing every short-term rental owner "for the actions of a few."

Resident Donna Pape suggested limiting the use of swimming pools and hot tubs from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. "like they do in hotels" to reduce noise.

She also said some of the parties with large numbers of guests are more appropriate for "Las Vegas. Not our community."

A number of citizens also voiced opposition to the 90-day moratorium on new short-term rentals, claiming it's already noticeably dropped the value of their homes since imposed about six weeks ago.

The values are higher if homes are allowed to be used for another income source.

Ed Bancroft of Lakeside was worried about he and his wife losing their ability to occasionally rent the cottage where he lives full-time for necessary income.

"To have it available to rent is an important part of us being able to keep the cottage and also to pass it on to our adult children," he said.

Township Supervisor David Bunte said there are 517 registered short-term rentals, which make up about 10 percent of all parcels available in the township.

A number of citizens pointed out the area has been a tourist destination for a century or more and limits on short-term rentals would hurt the shops and other businesses that rely on visitors especially during the summer.

However, other residents argued there used to be a lot more businesses prior to homes with full time residents being increasingly converted into short-term rentals.

Citizens like Janet Schrader complained about feeling isolated as a result of neighbors, who were once living there full-time being, replaced by a constant rotation of short-term rental guests.

"There used to be families in my neighborhood," she said.

Other suggestions included restricting the number of guests to two people for every bedroom and limiting the use of a home as a short-term rental to no more than 90 days a year.

Some residents felt the biggest problem is companies buying multiple homes strictly to turn them into temporary lodging facilities, accelerating the reduction in full-time residents.

Short-term rental owner Jason Sutton said there are no longer the number of manufacturing jobs that once supported and attracted the number of families that once lived here.

"There's not enough industry to have more neighbors than short-term rentals," he said.

Bunte said over 120 public comments on the issue have been voiced in e-mails on top of the 40 people who spoke publicly at a previous input seeking session.

"We realize there will not be a perfect solution. We hope to be able to find a middle ground that works for the township and preserves the community," he said.

To draw, you must close your eyes and sing.
— Pablo Picasso

Hikers to explore Grand Mere State Park

Have you ever wondered how Michigan wildlife survives winter? You might be surprised at the variety of techniques our local plants and animals use, or don't use.

Pat Fisher, president of Harbor Country Hikers, will reveal some of these techniques as he leads the Hikers (and you) on several of the unbeaten trails of Grand Mere State Park. And of course, you'll learn a little about Grand Mere State Park along the way. This moderate 1.5-mile hike begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and should last about two hours.

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis by filling out the brief form at www.harborcountryhikers.org/rollator.

Grand Mere is nearly 1,000 acres of beautiful undeveloped wetlands, woods, sand dunes and beach. Protected from Lake Michigan by the dunes to the west, the park has many natural features not found throughout the rest of the state. In 1968 it was designated a National Natural Landmark. Recreation Passport is required.

Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend this hike. Dress for the weather, wear a sun hat and sturdy shoes or boots, preferred pest controls and bring plenty of water. For more information, including driving directions to the Hoadley Nature Trail, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page.

— STAFF REPORTS

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The Orthodox Philanthropic Society members at Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church

Greek Flavors and Local History

ONE DAY LEFT

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

The 2025 Holiday Greek Bake Sale at Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church is wrapping up its season on Saturday, December 13, 2025. The Orthodox Philanthropic Society, which sponsors the sale, invites the community to stock up on authentic Greek pastries and sweets—ideal for enjoying with a cup of coffee—including Baklava and Melomakarona, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET. Proceeds support local women and children's charities. Adding a cultural dimension to the festive event, visitors are fascinated by the in-church Greek Museum exhibit, "Greeks of Berrien County." Don't miss your final chance to enjoy both the culture and the flavors this Saturday. The final Holiday Greek Bake Sale takes place at the Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Michigan.

Ted Kerhoulas and Sherri Kerhoulas

Tripp signs to play basketball in college

BY STAN MADDUX

A New Buffalo High School senior boys' basketball player will compete next year at the college level.

Sam Tripp has signed a letter of intent to play at Kuyper College, a Christian school at Grand Rapids in the National Christian College Athletic Association.

During a brief signing ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 25, at New Buffalo High School, Tripp was joined by his parents and siblings.

"I want to thank my family, of course, for always being there and helping out. I love you guys," he said.

Tripp, a 6'1" guard, was heavily recruited by Kuyper College, who cited things like his ability to shoot and be like a coach on the floor during games for their high level of interest.

"The thing I like is he can really think the game," said Tyler Whitcomb, a former longtime assistant coach turned athletics liaison at the school this year.

He said Tripp's dedication to improving his game and work in the classroom were among the other factors in deciding to pursue Tripp.

Whitcomb said the challenge for Tripp in his first season will be to find a role on a team with a lot of returning players, excel at it and grow.

"I think he has a lot of potential to even get better and better," he said.

Tripp and several of his teammates have been in the starting line up at the varsity level since they were freshman during a major rebuilding after the senior laden Bison lost in the regional finals the previous season.

The team has advanced from winning just one game that year to reaching the district finals last season.

Tripp has been a little bit of everything on the court such as playmaker, a scoring threat from beyond the three-point line and a solid defender.

Since 2018, his father, Nate, has been the head basketball coach at the high school.

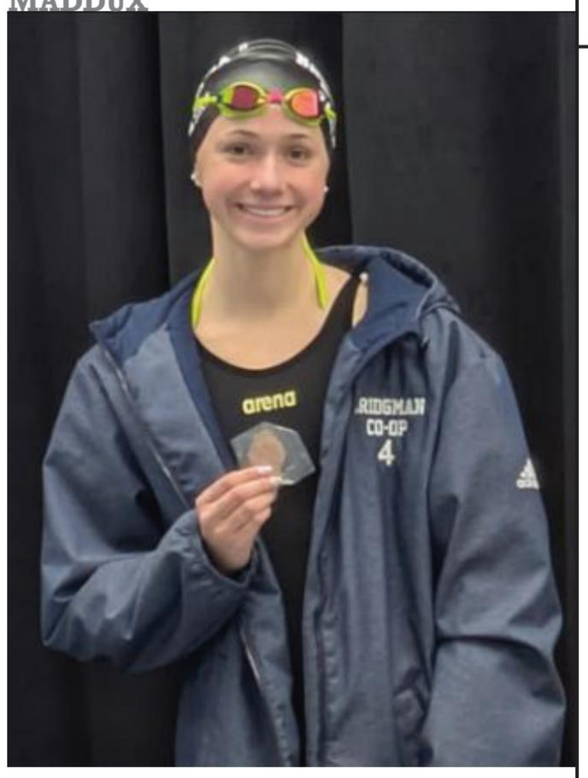
"So, few athletes are ever going to go on and make it big time in the pros, so you got to take care of the stuff in the classroom first and then you got to be a good person. I think Sam personifies both of those things," he said.

New Buffalo High School Athletic Director Matt Johnson said Tripp is often by himself dribbling a basketball in one of the gymnasiums at school when he reports for work in the morning.

"I'm very excited about Sam's opportunity," he said.

New Buffalo student qualifies for all-state honors in swimming

BY STAN MADDUX



A sophomore at New Buffalo High School has made all-state in swimming.

Phoebe Zalewski qualified for all-state honors by finishing in sixth place in the 100-meter freestyle during a state championship tournament at Oakland University Friday, Nov. 21.

Zalewski is on a school coop team consisting of swimmers from larger schools like Bridgman and Berrien Springs.

New Buffalo High School Athletic Director Matt Johnson said the team, because of their combined enrollment, goes up against some of the beset swimmers in the state.

"She's competing at the highest level," he said.

Zalewski fell just short of qualifying for all-state in other categories with her 11th place finish in the 200-meter freestyle and her relay team placing 11th in the 200-meter relay.

"She's got a really great future as a swimmer," he said.

Other awards for Zalewski this year included being conference champion in the 100-meter freestyle.

Zalewski also participates during the off-season in USA Swimming, which is a non-school related sanctioning body that hosts regional and national competitions, and works on power lifting during the winter.

"She's doing the little things to try to elevate herself, which is awesome," Johnson said.

SNOWFLAKE STROLL PARADE, TREE LIGHTING THIS SATURDAY

The 10th annual Three Oaks Snowflake Stroll Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

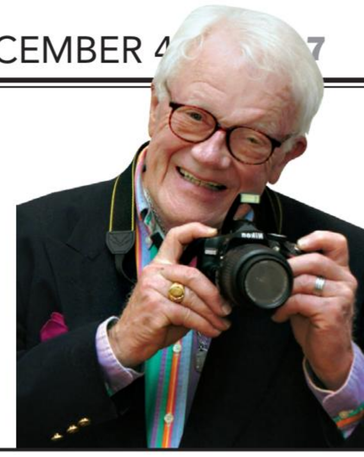
The event, which was rescheduled for this weekend due to last weekend's winter storm, will kick off at Dewey Cannon Park. The parade will then go down Maple and Elm Street all the way to Carver Park for the tree-lighting ceremony…with a visit from Santa himself.

For more information, follow Stroll Three Oaks on Facebook or visit www.strollthreeoaks.com. — STAFF REPORTS

A Day in the Life

VIRGINIA'S BIRTHDAY POEM...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER



She's 89 or 102.

Don't ask her, she has not a clue.

When you get to this age, you can only endure.

You simply answer, "I am not so sure."

Whatever it is, she's a delight to most.

She's fun to be with and a very good host!

She makes life fun to be around, no matter your age.

She's always great to be with, and never just an old sage.

She dresses very fashionably for a woman of her years.

She makes a statement every day, she has no fears.

Tears of joy - not sad tears, of course, but she is like poetry from a book.

She once designed her own clothes, and design still guides her look.

That designer's attitude never goes away. A snobby designer she is a not a "snook."

It permeates everything for many years, but for her it's a joke - right from the book!

It's also true with cooking, she bakes apple pie - her specialty, I remember, as I write.

She bakes with creativity, as she does with all things in her life.

She once designed her own clothes, very creative for the time.

She also had clients looking for something out of their own mind.

'Brilliant," they said in large measure, when she got those great comments when they were finished and everyone raved when they took a look.

And Ginny would take them in stride and save their compliments for her book.

She takes each day as if it were her last.

And she makes it a joy for her friends, but not so fast!

She never says goodbyes; it's against her nature to judge.

She always plans to see you again, and that she'll never budge.

Her hair is like silk, and she styles it differently every day.

No matter whatever others might say, their way long or short, she might be in dismay but will finally style it her way.

She is always an enigma, and sometimes for finding the right words is hard to do.

She is always candid, though, with her words, and never says anything that she knows to be untrue.

No taller than a minute, that's not wrong to describe Ginny, so truly she is only about 4-foot-2.

Her mind is always functioning at its preferable height, and very tall to you.

She takes and deserves full credit for all she does go through.

She gives her creative softness every day for me and for you.

We sit together on the bus, and true friends we are. We are close enough to sense when to talk or not.

That does include sharing "Good and Plenty" candy a lot.

I always look forward to her company, it's true.

She's a little pistol, but harmless and fun, too.

She leaves you in misery when she's gone with her puzzles.

When your wishes are for her to stay, and just do some snuggles.

That's everyone's fantasy, if the truth be known.

She has that kind of magic and you just want to take her home.

Happy, happy birthday to her, with a legion of friends who love her so.

We only hope to have you for a few more years, like 200 would be good to go!

Love you to death, if it's not obvious from these words of admiration trying to say enough about your folklore.

It's far too many but you can't write about someone of your stature without 1,000 or more!

1 in 7 children faces hunger.

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ad COUNCIL

FEEDING AMERICA

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The Bears are making sure that they are at the top of most of Chicago's sports fans minds.

Sure, the schedule has favored them. Sure, they have pulled off some miracle finishes.

But all that has accomplished is gaining confidence between the coaching staff and the players, and making the team believe in themselves.

Sunday was the first day they were playing a team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, with a winning record, and the pundits thought that the Bears hot streak was over.

Chicago fans didn't agree.

First of all, fans desperately wanted to beat Pittsburgh's quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, but he couldn't play because of an injury. The old Packer once said he owned the Bears, and they've been trying to disprove that since. But a win was even more important, and the Bears started the game with more than half of their defense not able to play.

This included all three of their starting linebackers, and very early in the game, they lost one of the backups, so they were down to their seventh backer. Things weren't really looking up. At halftime, the Bears were down by four.

The Bears and their fans have discovered one thing this season, and that is no matter what the score is at halftime, the Bears are still in the game.

Defensively, they were playing their hearts out. Even though they were short handed, they held the Steelers in check until the offense could score a couple of touchdowns and grab a ten point lead.

The offense this week was led by Caleb Williams who threw three touchdown passes, and D.J. Moore who caught two of them and Colston Loveland who caught the other one. Kyle Monangai barreled into the end zone for the final score.

Most Sundays this season, it's been up to the offense to win the game in the fourth quarter, but this week, Pittsburgh had the ball with less than two minutes remaining in the game and they only needed a field goal to tie the score.

Well, the defense stepped up and Jaquan Brisker knocked down a fourth down pass to seal the victory,their fourth in a row and seventh in their last eight.

So here we sit, 11 games into a 17 game season.

While nothing is guaranteed in the National Football League, if the Bears can split their last six games, they will probably make the playoffs, ending up with twice as many wins as they had last season.

One of my friends said that it was pretty cool that we now have a team that just might beat anyone. It sure seems like it's been a long time since we could say that.

The players deserve a big share of the team's success, but to me, coach Ben Johnson is responsible.

The next game is against the Eagles on the day after Thanksgiving.

Erma Bombeck said, "I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

The time when most of you should withdraw into yourself is when you are forced to be in a crowd. — *Epicurus*

High hopes for Bison in boys' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

Going deeper into the post season is the goal of the New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team, which made it to the finals in the District 4 tournament last year.

Head Coach Nate Tripp said he believes the team, which went 26-6 in games during the summer, has a shot at becoming the first regional champion from New Buffalo High School since the state championship team from 1963.

"We're excited about what we have," he said.

Returning seniors Sam Tripp, Trevor James, Brysun Perry and Lucas Forker along with sophomore newcomer Colten Lijewski are expected to be in the starting line-up.

A solid group of players led by senior Nick Haskins should receive considerable time off the bench.

Tripp said the depth on the team is the most he's had since becoming head coach in 2018.

"We got a really good bench and that's something we haven't had in the past," he said.

Despite such lofty expectations, Tripp said the focus during the regular season will be strictly on defeating their next opponent.

"We're going to take it one game at a time," he said.

Tripp said a lot of emphasis has also been placed on no longer getting caught up in the drama stirred by a controversial call from a referee or cheap shot from an opposing player.

"We are going to be the mentally strongest team that we've ever had. We are going to play through adversity," he said.

Forker, a 6'4" center, is expected to be relied on heavily for points like he was last year, when he led the team in scoring.

Tripp, who will open the season at point guard, along with James and Lijewski should also contribute significantly on offense with help from their long-range shooting ability.

On defense, the plan is for the Bison to use their speed and quickness to put a lot of pressure on the ball to try and force turnovers that lead to points.

New Buffalo and River Valley will play their final season as Bison and Mustangs before merging their boys' basketball programs next year.

To mark the occasion, both teams played a scrimmage game against each other about a week before Thanksgiving at the historic gymnasium used in the filming of Hoosiers, a movie about a 1950s small school team from southern Indiana winning the state high school basketball championship.

"That was pretty cool. It was a lot of fun," he said.

Tripp will not be on the sidelines to start the season because of a health-related issue.

His son and former Bison basketball player, Nate Tripp, Jr., will be serve as head coach until his father returns possibly before Christmas.

"Until then, I know he'll keep the team together," he said.

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12.20.25

SPEAKEASY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

12.31.25

OBITUARIES

Eugene "Gene" Dracopol
1935-2025

Eugene "Gene" Dracopol, 90, of Union Pier, died peacefully, Thursday, November 20, 2025 in the presence of his family.

His life began July 6, 1935 in Constanta, Romania, born to Dimitri and Lucretia Dracopol.

Gene loved life and saw beauty in all things. He was an avid reader and had many, many books. He was a history buff, but loved reading anything and everything. He had a thirst for knowledge and an endless curiosity. He enjoyed every genre of music. He had a love of the ballet and his daughter remembers him taking her to the opera when she was young. His distinguished presence and kind heart will live forever.

Gene will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his life partner, Rosalie Pompushko of Union Pier; daughter, Amelia Dracopol of Kansas City, Kansas; stepdaughters, Denise Plumb and Ninel Pompushko of Sawyer: and his beloved dogs, Pencil and Milly.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

Judith Lynn Stafford
1963-2025

Judith Lynn Stafford, 62, of Galien, joined her heavenly home peacefully, Sunday, November 23, 2025, in the presence of her family's comfort.

Her life began November 23, 1963 in Cleveland, Ohio, born to John McDonald. She married Jeff Stafford in Port Huron on April 17, 2010.

Judy's whole life was her church and her family. She adored her grandchildren. Judy volunteered often at the American Legion Post #344 in Galien. She enjoyed caring for others; baking and making meals for her family and friends. Judy always had a word to say about the Gospel, and wanted everyone she knew and met to know Jesus the same way she does.

Judy will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by

Her beloved husband of sixteen years Jeff Stafford of Galien, one daughter, Brandy (Jeremy) Payne of Bridgman, two sons, Johnathon (Crystal) Beaver of Madison Heights, Robert Beaver of Birmingham, eleven grandchildren, Corey, Caleb, Cayden, Beau, Madison, Brooklyn, Mckinley, Faith, Benjamin, Judah, Jeremiah, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, one granddaughter Kendall, and two aunts Connie and Brenda.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, December 6, 2025 in Calvary Tabernacle, 606 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128. From 12:00 noon until the time of service at 1:00 p.m.

Judy will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Judy be made to Calvary Tabernacle, 606 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

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Baroda Christmas Market Crawl — Dec 6, 11–4, Downtown Baroda

Bridgman Holiday Village — Dec 6, 1–7, Downtown Bridgman

Harbor Country Singers Holiday Concert — Dec 6 & 7, 4, Harbert & Three Oaks

Fernwood Holiday Wreath Workshop (Reg. required) — Dec 6 & 7, Various, Buchanan

"Prancer" Free Screening — Dec 6 & 13, 11, Three Oaks Library

Froehlich's Kindlemart — Dec 6 & 13, 10–3, Three Oaks

Jolabokaflod Book Exchange (Ages 1–18) — Dec 9, 4, New Buffalo Library

Round Barn Jingle Bingo — Dec 11, 6, Baroda

Round Barn Estate Holiday Market — Dec 13, 12–5, Baroda

Burn 'Em Merry & Morbid Market — Dec 13, 4–10, Michigan City

Santa's Circus (Tickets required) — Dec 13 & 14, 6, Four Winds

Lakeside Inn Murder Mystery Dinner (Reservation required) — Dec 13, 7:30, Lakeside

Section House Holiday Market — Dec 13, 11–4, Sawyer

Comedy on the Rocks w/ Kevin Farley (18+, tickets) — Dec 19, 9, Three Oaks

The Muppet Christmas Carol (Tickets required) — Dec 19, 7, The Acorn

Brunch with Santa — Dec 20, 10–6, Sonny D's, New Buffalo

Santa Brunch (Reservations required) — Dec 20, 10–1:30, Tabor Hill

Granor by Candlelight – Solstice Celebration (Reservation required) — Dec 20, 6:30, Three Oaks

A Celtic Christmas ft. On The Lash (Tickets required) — Dec 20, 8, The Acorn

Free Screening: A Christmas Story — Dec 21, 4, Vicker's Theater

Winter Solstice Bonfire — Dec 21, 5:30, River St. Joe, Buchanan

Halfway to Midnight Ball Drop — Dec 31, 12–7, Peat's Cider Social

Disco New Year's Eve (Tickets required) — Dec 31, 8, Sawyer

Bejewelled – New Year's Eve Celebration (Reservation required) — Dec 31, 6:30, Granor Farm

LIGHTS at Fernwood (Tickets required) — All month, 6/7/8pm, Buchanan

Do you have an event you'd like to share? Send to info@NewBuffaloTimes.com with HILLARY in the subject line, and see if you make it into the monthly events.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

M.A.S.K. frenzy

Ray and I are working furiously on the M.A.S.K. television series. Propelled by the thunder of revving M.A.S.K. and V.E.N.O.M. vehicles that we envision, we're roaring away, each having completed three scripts. It was Thursday and with only two more scripts each to go, we figured a non-stop weekend of writing would do the trick.

This was 1985 and a heavy duty printer, like the Diablo DIC used costs between $2,000 and $3,000 – a luxury I wasn't yet ready to pop for. So delivering each script meant driving to the Encino studio with a floppy disc so the script could be printed by Word Processing.

Visiting the new studio was fun. It was different from our old digs in Studio City. Here everything was bright and well-lit and shiny new. There was a big reception room with receptionists behind a counter fielding phone calls and checking in visitors. It was pretty cool to have them first greet me by name and then buzz me into the inner offices.

Off long corridors, each department had a separate wing of offices – Executives' Wing, Artists' Wing, Post-production Wing, Word Processing, Accounting, Legal and, my favorite, the Writers' Wing. Eight spacious offices accommodated all of us, allowing us to circulate and get to know each other.

My large office provided ample room for myself and fellow writer Bob Logan, who was already ensconced behind one of the two big desks. There were new file cabinets, seating for visitors, desk chairs for me and Bob and, incredibly, a full length window! I stopped in to say hi to Bobby before heading to Word Processing to deliver my floppy disc and have my next-to-last script printed.

As I chatted with Bobby, I was thinking I was going to like having him for an office roomy. I wasn't sure if this good looking, curly dark-haired, always upbeat and smiling writer liked being called 'Bobby', but he didn't protest when Stoke and I called him that.

I glanced at a series bible on Bobby's desk and asked what he was working on. He answered, "It's a new series called Popples, owned by Those Characters From Cleveland. I heard you knocked it out of the park for them on Care Bears."

I smiled. Then Bobby told me, "Lori said we'll be working together on Popples as soon as you wrap M.A.S.K. and finish Heathcliff. Sounds like you're a busy guy."

I told him, "I like it that way. I think it'll be fun for us to be working together."

"We're doing okay ruling the Entertainment Softball League."

I grinned and told him I had to get to Word Processing.

I walked into Word Processing -- a long, narrow room with wide windows. Stoke was seated, two female word processors to his left, each with a dedicated word processor in front of them. All three typed away at an impossible word-per-minute speed. I asked Stoke how itwas going and, without looking from his monitor, he flashed a thumbs-up.

To the far right I see Word Processing's Diablo printer, with a Plexiglas cover, pounding away at blurring speed. I wanted a Diablo of my own. I wanted one badly...

I took my floppy disc with the M.A.S.K. script file from my briefcase, announcing, "I've got a script I need printed," just as Lisa Maliani walks in. Funny how sometimes there's no advance warning about disaster getting ready to strike.

HOROSCOPE

DECEMBER 4-10, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Really listen to the feedback from others before continuing forward in relationships and the obligations that stem from them. Pay attention to what siblings or classmates are mirroring back to you about your actions or your way of doing things. There is something more being said than just words here.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

The inherent value of a relationship will be illuminated this week. Pay attention to the things that are silently communicated and felt before you either make a deeper commitment or end things. Ask for clarity when you feel things are being left unsaid or if you feel people are being purposely leaving details out.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Health and well being is of utmost importance this season. Stay on top of your exercise routines and incorporate more healthy options into your diet. Beyond just cleaning up your daily routines, take time to communicate any stress or anxiety you may be experiencing. Let your emotions out by talking to someone.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

You will be exceptionally in tune with the universe this week. That doesn't mean things will go smoothly but it will give you a sense of being in the flow; knowing what to do before things get out of hand. Listen to your instincts and trust your inner compass. When it's time to act, you will know it.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The energy this week is all about understanding what gives you peace of mind and how to balance your physical and emotional life with those you see regularly. Maintaining a sense of security and being with people that truly support you will be prioritized now. This the time to harmonize with others.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

It's important to overcome superficial limitations that inhibit really connecting with other people this week. Focus on the things that you have in common and get curious when differences arise. Ask questions and listen without judgment. The universe is sending you a chance for a deep connection this week.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This is the time to get work and finances flowing together. If there are issues with coworkers, clear the air and restart projects if necessary. You may have more responsibilities than others now but don't let that create resentments. Know that you are seen as the one with the knowledge and the talent.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Prepare for a brush with the supernatural this week. Don't ignore gut feelings and when you feel something is off, beat feet. Don't hang around where you feel bad vibes. This is the time to create distance between you and negativity. If someone is doing something that doesn't jive, leave and keep your peace.

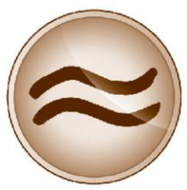
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You will be feeling very in tune with partners and those you collaborate with this week. Utilize this fully by adjusting your outspokenness with the feelings that you know your words may cause to another. Be very aware that your words are not just the only thing being conveyed now.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You will be very sensitive to how others are feeling and will instinctively know when things are off. Don't brush off the negativity. Ask people for clarification and push them to own their feelings. In doing so, you will make them be more accountable for the vibe they are bringing.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Prepare yourself for working with a very diversified team. This week. You understand that there are many ways to get to the same conclusion but other people may not like working with new concepts or alternative strategies. You may have to mediate between people who are clinging to different styles.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You will be very attuned to what is a power struggle and what is just a conflict between personalities. Trust your judgment and don't let people be cruel to others and act like it's just a difference of opinion. You know abuse when you see it. Be the one to call out injustice and help those that truly need it.

he more you know, the more you know you don't know.
— Aristotle

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1		9			2	
5	4	3				9		
						1		
	5							2
4					2	3	1	7
				7			8	
	9	7	3	8				
	3			5		8		

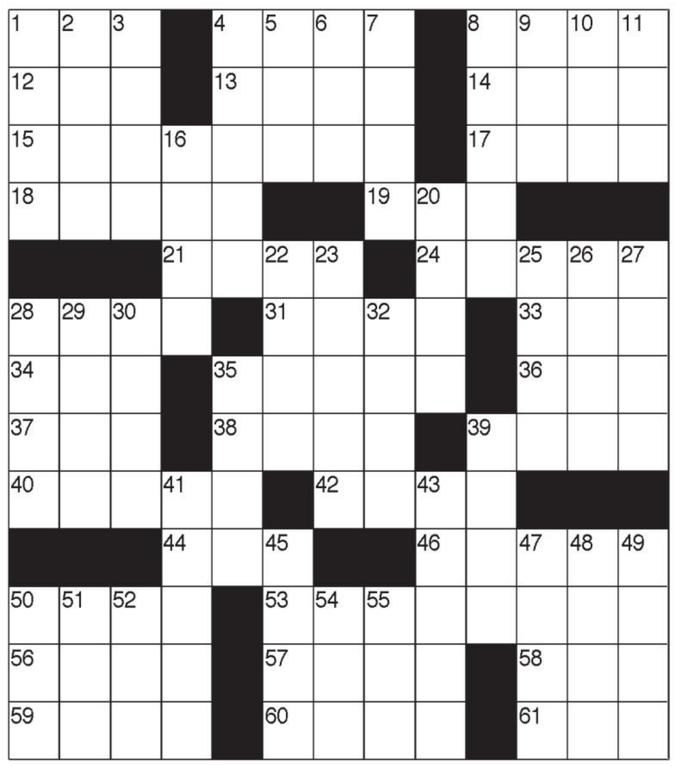
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

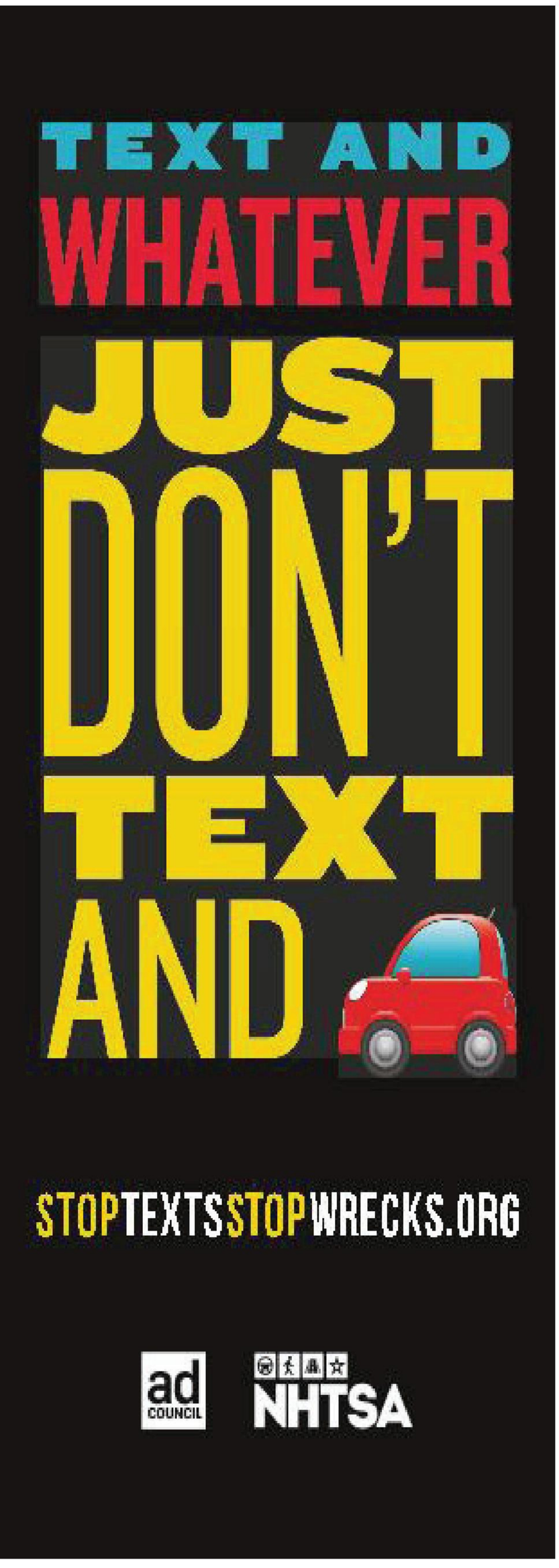
ACROSS

1 Cigarette: Brit. slang
4 Euphemistic oath
8 Shak. villain
12 Feminine (suf.)
13 Yahi tribe survivor
14 Freshwater worm
15 Bony
17 Load cargo
18 Head
19 Civil War commander
21 Cavity (suf.)
24 String of mules
28 Walk through
31 Singing voice
33 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
34 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)
35 Cement
36 Receipt (abbr.)
37 Rom. bronze
38 Killer whale
39 Wife of Jacob
40 Side
42 Photographer's solution
44 At the age of (Lat.)
46 Door (Lat.)
50 Sea bird
53 Balm
56 Powdered pumice
57 Of the kind of (suf.)
58 Ohio college town
59 Wet
60 Sprint
61 Dude

DOWN

1 Exchequer
2 Egypt. cross
3 Earth personified
4 Sacred (pref.)
5 Superlative (suf.)
6 Oriental tea
7 Rub out
8 Body of water
9 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
10 Sheep disease
11 Pindar work
16 Parasitic insects
20 Moderate
22 Ivory (Lat.)
23 Fastening
25 Rhine tributary
26 Jackfruit
27 Pledge
28 Women's Aux. Air Force (abbr.)
29 Brother of Seth
30 Hindu servant
32 Visit
35 Jab
39 Loess
41 Nat'l Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (abbr.)
43 Tar
45 Batrachian
47 Fist
48 Erase
49 Nipa palm
50 Standard (abbr.)
51 "The Jungle Book" python
52 City on the Danube
54 Thus (Lat.)
55 Birthplace of Constantine





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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

A LONG WINTERS NAP

As the daylight disappears quickly, I find myself pretty antsy, missing the garden, the outdoors and constant movement. I am sure there are many of you out there that feel the same. Rather than dreading this season, let's try to embrace it, because in truth… we don't have much choice.

It is said there is a time and a season for everything. We are in a different season. There is something about the early darkness that naturally slows us down. It invites us to turn inward and pause. Winter is a time of contemplation to sit with ourselves, our emotions and look at the direction of life we are moving into. A time to let the world get quiet and pick up an old hobby you haven't had time for. Read that book that you have been wanting to read but never found the time. Hand write some letters to friends or relatives, if for no other reason but being present. Let your creativity flow that is within you. Focus on projects that we don't have time for in the summer. Rest.

Spending quiet time will allow you to hear your own thoughts that can be very healing. Quiet time helps us reconnect to ourselves in a way that is too easy to avoid in the loud busy times of our lives. Allowing ourselves to process and also release the deep things that we have been carrying is very healing. Take this time to step away from your phones, computers, and even turn the WIFI totally off for a short time. So many people don't know what it is like to actually be quietly alone with themselves. We need to embrace setbacks as growing opportunities rather than failures.

As it gets colder outside, it is time to develop new habits that will re-ground us. Bringing us back to the balance that we all want.

We live in a world where everything is built around instant gratification. If we want something, we can usually get it within minutes. When people get bored, they can scroll on their phones and other distractions for a quick fix. I despise the word "bored."

Challenge yourself to accept the time and place we are living. If you can pick up and move to a warmer climate and that is what you want to do, that is great. But for others, make the best of where you are. Patience, consistency, and inward peace is something that we probably all need to work on. This is the season to practice these principles.

There are three principles to patience. Mindfulness, by being present in the moment to reduce anxiety and worry about the future. Perspective, by reminding yourself that setbacks are temporary and can ultimately lead to growth. And last, Empathy, by trying to understand others view points and offering compassion to them rather than arguing and judging. This is true growth.

May this season bring your great joy to reflect where you have been and contemplate on where you are going.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

BO

Bo is one-year-old and all puppy, and he approaches life with enthusiasm, innocence, and a heart that overflows with affection. His absolute favorite thing is belly rubs. Bo will happily interrupt anything he's doing the instant he sees an opportunity to flop onto his back, squint his eyes, wiggle around, and soak up all the love. Bo will thrive with an active family that includes him in their adventures and enjoys teaching tricks to a smart, willing pup. With patience, love, and lots of belly rubs, Bo will blossom into the playful, confident companion he was always meant to be. Make Bo part of your home today.

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

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PUBLIC NOTICES

2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
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January 21, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
February 18, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
March 18, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
April 15, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
May 20, 2026-5:00 p.m. ET
June 17, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
July 15, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
August 19, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
September 16, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
October 21, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
November 18, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET
December 16, 2026 -5:00 p.m. ET

REGULAR MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Francesca Pawlowski and Uriah Moore make bowls

A display of ceramic bowls for the annual dinner

Empty Bowls fundraiser on tap for next week

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA | PHOTOS PROVIDED

Guests can receive a warm, homecooked meal and a beautiful, homemade ceramic bowl, all while supporting a good cause, at the 14th annual Empty Bowls event, which will take place from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, in the New Buffalo Middle/High School cafeteria.

Guests can enjoy soup, dessert and a drink, as well as their choice of a ceramic bowl made by the Pottery Club, for a suggested donation of $10 to support the Blessings in a Backpack organization which helps feed New Buffalo families in our community.

"Empty Bowls is a longstanding tradition at New Buffalo High School, organized by Amy Quick and Beth Scoggin as sponsors of the New Buffalo High School Student Senate and in collaboration with staff members throughout the district," Ashley Jager, middle/high school art teacher, said.

The soup is made by high school students in Nicole Bowen's Foods and Nutrition class, along with many crock pots of soup donated by NBAS staff members. New Buffalo students from several clubs will be volunteering at this year's event, including members of the New Buffalo Elementary School Student Senate.

Jager said Pottery Club students at New Buffalo High School had opportunities to volunteer and donate to the community over the past year by creating bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser.

> "Many hands are involved in making each bowl at every stage of clay, from hand-building or throwing on the pottery wheel to trimming, sanding, waxing, and finally glazing," she said.

"One interesting fact about the history of Empty Bowls is that it was founded in 1990 by a Michigan Art Teacher, John Hartom of Michigan Art Education Association, with the idea to think globally about world hunger and act locally to support local food charities," Jager added.

For more information, call 269-469-6001 or contact aquick@nbas.org or bscoggin@nbas.org. New Buffalo Middle/High School is located at 1112 East Clay St. in New Buffalo.

Dom Moser works at the whee

Abby Bahena works on her bowl

Gunnar Hedhal works at the wheel

Jo Haberichter works on her bowl

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EXPIRES 8/20/24
Coupons can not be combined or stacked. Rules and restrictions apply. Limit 1 offer per customer. Valid at Bloomery New Buffalo

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Bar by night
the FALSE FRONT
NEW BUFFALO · MI
Open Thursday-Monday
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PURE NEW BUFFALO

BLACK FRIDAY PREGAME!

PURE CANNABIS OUTLET

10271 US-12, NEW BUFFALO, MI 49117

(269)-649-PURE | 9AM-8:45PM

$25 OFF

YOUR ORDER OF $50 OR MORE!

REG. PRICE ITEMS ONLY

USE CODE: BFPREGAME

EXP: 1/1/2026

VALID AT PURE NEW BUFFALO ONLY. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER SALES OR DISCOUNTS RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. ALL MULTI ITEM DEALS APPLY TO SELECT BRANDS ONLY. PURE CANNABIS OUTLET RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DECLINE ANY COUPON FOR ANY REASON. COUPON IS TO BE MARKED BY BUDTENDER AFTER USE. YOU MAY ONLY USE ONE COUPON PER VISIT. LIMIT EACH COUPON TO ONE USE ONLY.

It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. For use by individuals 21 years of age or older or registered qualifying patients only. Keep out of reach of children. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.

WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.

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LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER*

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CANNABIS OUTLET
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OPEN A NEW FLAP EACH DAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS TO UNLOCK AN
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST ONLY
1 2 3 4 5 6
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13 14 15 16 17 18
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25

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